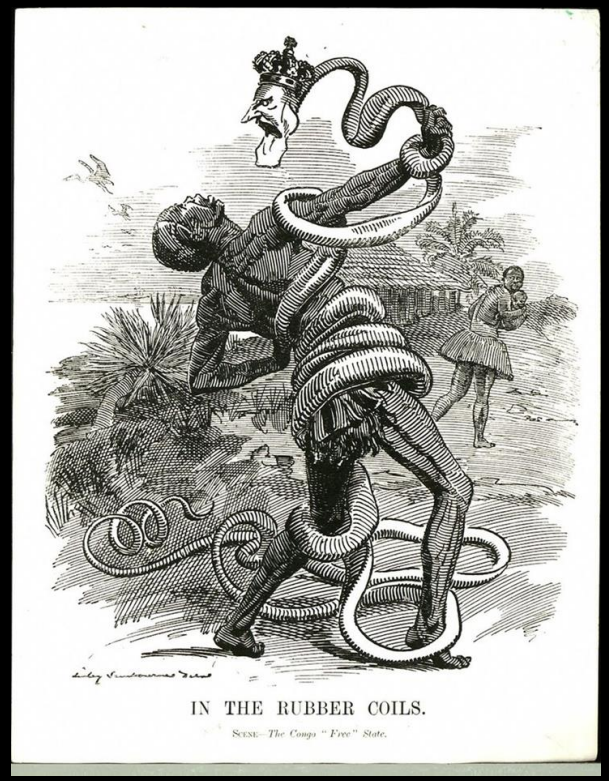
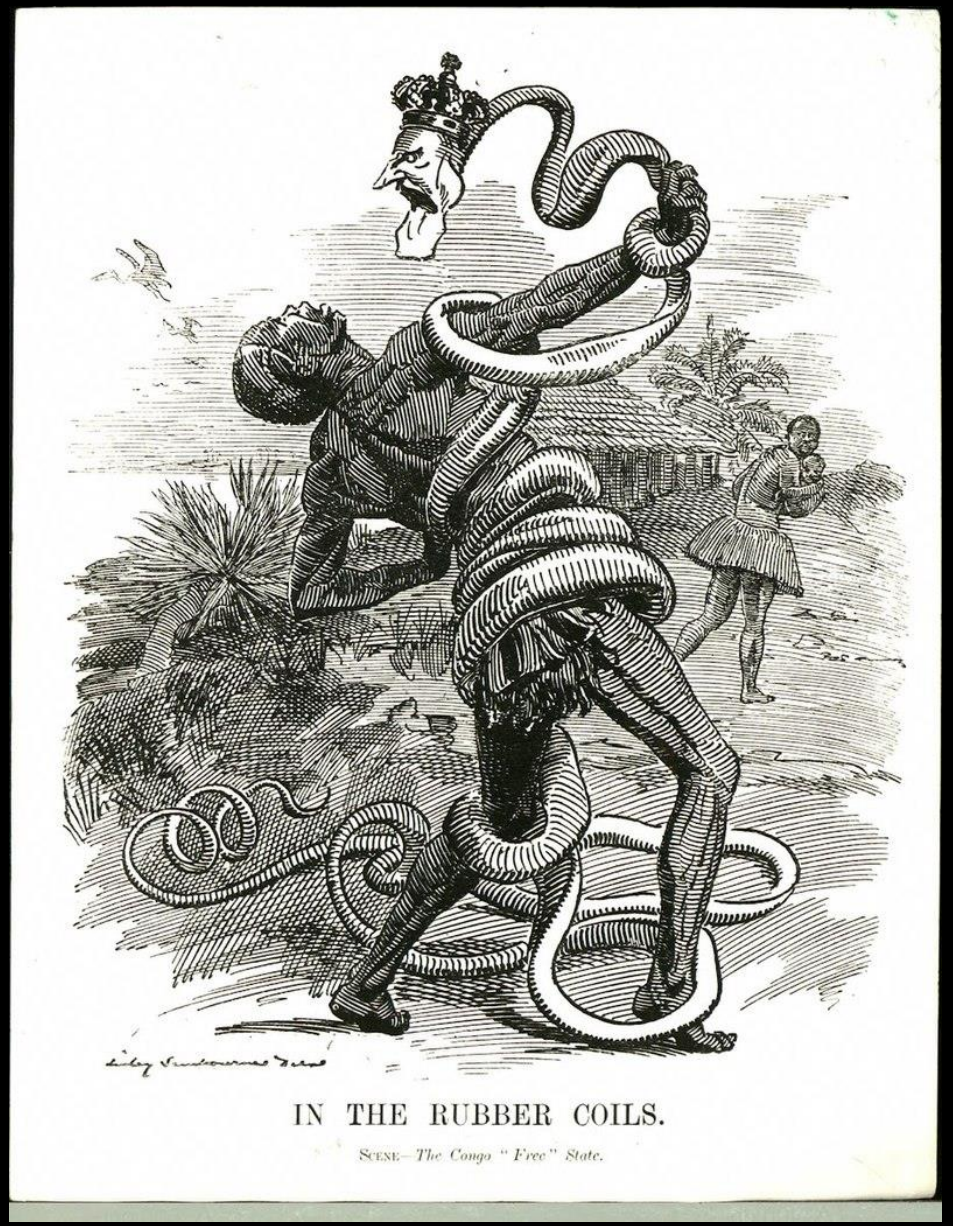
King Leopold II of Belgium was a real butcher



Leopold was the founder and sole owner of the Congo Free State and all its people, a private project undertaken on his own behalf. He used explorer Henry Morton Stanley to help him lay claim to the Congo, an area now known as the Democratic Republic of the Congo. At the Berlin Conference of 1884–1885, the colonial nations of Europe authorised his claim by committing the Congo Free State to improving the lives of the native inhabitants.

Under his regime millions of Congolese **people died**. Modern estimates range from one million to **fifteen million**, with a consensus growing around **10 million**. Several historians argue against this figure due to the absence of reliable censuses, the enormous mortality of diseases such as smallpox or sleeping sickness and the fact that there were only 175 administrative agents in charge of rubber exploitation.

Reports of deaths and abuse led to a major international scandal in the early 20th century, and Leopold was forced by the Belgian government to relinquish control of the colony to the civil administration in 1908.



Leopold II a massmurderer

Congolese children, victim of Force publique in Leopold's Congo. The photographs were taken by Alice Seeley Harris.

Encyclopædia Britannica writes that the population possibly went from **30 to 8 million.**

The Belgian butcher